



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

INDIANA
CORE40
End-of-Course Assessments

THIS REFERENCE SHEET INCLUDES INFORMATION REGARDING THE END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND ITS RELATED COMPONENTS FOR 2007-08:

- Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments
- ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments
- ADP Algebra II Final Exam
- Core 40 Classroom Assessments

Below is a table detailing when Core 40 ECAs, QualityCore ECAs, and/or the Algebra II ADP final Exams are offered. Following the table is specific information regarding EACH assessment respectively.

ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Assessment	Vendor	Administration Window	Format Available
Algebra I Core 40 ECA	Questar	A1, A2	Online only
		A3	Online or Paper
Algebra II QualityCore ECA*	ACT	A1, A2, A3	Paper only
Algebra II Core 40 ECA*	Questar	A3	Paper only
Algebra II End-of-Course Exam*	American Diploma Project – Pearson	A3	Paper only
Biology I Core 40 ECA	Questar	A1, A2	Online
		A3	Online or Paper
English I I QualityCore ECA*	ACT	A1, A2, A3	Online only
English I I Core 40 ECA*	Questar	A3	Online only
*All Corporations are assigned to <u>one</u> of the vendors when more than one is provided.			

Algebra II and English I I:

Corporation Assignments for Algebra II and English I I End-of-Course Assessments for the A3 Administration (see table below):

NOTE: Corporations and Nonpublic schools that are NOT listed in the table below will administer the Algebra II and English I I QualityCore ECAs with ACT.

Pearson: Algebra II, & Questar: English I I	Corporation Name	Corporation Number
	Cloverdale Community Schools	6750
	Greater Clark County Schools	1010
	Huntington Co Com School Corp	3625
	Indianapolis Public Schools	5385
	M S D Wayne Township	5375
	Northwest Allen County Schools	0225
	Orleans Community Schools	6145
	School Town of Munster	4740
	West Washington Schools	8220
Questar: Algebra II and English I I	Corporation Name	Corporation Number
	Alexandria Com School Corp	5265
	Blue River Valley Schools	3405
	Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp	7995
	Kokomo-Center Twp Con School Corp	3500
	Lafayette School Corporation	7855
	Merrillville Community Schools	4600
	Monroe County Com School Corp	5740
	Smith-Green Community Schools	8625
	Zionsville Community Schools	0630
ACT: Algebra II and English I I	Corporation Name	Corporation Number
	Bartholomew Con School Corp	0365
	East Allen County Schools	0255
	Franklin Township Com School Corp	5310
	Frankton-Lapel Community School	5245
	Lake Central School Corp	4615
	M S D Perry Township	5340
	Northeast School Corp	7645
	Paoli Community School Corp	6155
	Warrick County School Corp	8130

Algebra I and Biology I ECAs

All Corporations and nonpublic schools will administer the Core 40 Biology I and Algebra I ECAs with Questar.

DETAILS FOR EACH ASSESSMENT:

Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments

As part of Indiana's school accountability system under Public Law 221, Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs) are designed to ensure the quality, consistency, and rigor of Core 40 courses across the state. Aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards, End-of-Course Assessments are final exams measuring what students know and are able to do upon completion of targeted Core 40 courses.

The following operational ECAs or Exams are available this year:

Algebra I (Winter – online only and Spring – online or PP)

Algebra II (Spring – PP only)

Biology I (Winter – online only and Spring – online or PP)

English I I (Spring – Online only)

This information and much more is posted on the ECA Welcome page:

<http://doe.state.in.us/core40/welcome.html>

ACT Quality Core Assessments

ACT introduced QualityCore™, an instructional improvement program designed to help ensure that the outcomes of high school preparatory courses are aligned with essential postsecondary skills. QualityCore provides research-based educator resources to shape rigorous course content and improve outcomes. <http://www.act.org/qualitycore/index.html>

- ACT QualityCore Assessments ensure that outcomes of high school core preparatory courses are aligned with college readiness standards. Educators can use student achievement data to ensure the quality, consistency, and rigor of high school courses. QualityCore is also designed to provide valid and reliable measures of student achievement.
- Provides teachers with model lessons, model units, formative assessment item pools, and end-of-course assessments to help improve the quality, consistency, and rigor of core preparatory courses.

More information may be found here: <http://www.act.org/qualitycore/indiana/>

ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Exam

Algebra II or its equivalent is a gateway course for higher education and teaches quantitative reasoning skills important for the workplace. In the fall of 2005, nine ADP Network states—**Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island**—came together to develop specifications for a common end-of-course exam in Algebra II. In recent months, four additional states—**Arizona, Hawaii, Minnesota, and Washington**—have joined the partnership, bringing the total number of participating states to thirteen.

The goals of this unprecedented multi-state assessment are:

- to improve high school Algebra II curriculum and instruction;
- to serve as an indicator of readiness for first-year college credit-bearing courses; and
- to provide a common measure of student performance across states over time.

In March 2007, the contract was awarded to Pearson Educational Measurement (Pearson). The end-of-course exam in Algebra II will take place for the first time in Spring 2008.

Q: What are the contact numbers and emails for ALL of the vendors?

A: Questar Online Technology or Paper-and-Pencil Testing Related Questions (Algebra I and Biology I; Algebra II and English I I where assigned):

Phone: 1-877-IC40-ECA (1-877-424-0322)

Email: Core40support@questarai.com

Administrative Site: <https://incore40eca.questarai.com/admin>

A: ACT Online Technology or Paper-and-Pencil Testing Related Questions (Algebra II and English I I only):

Phone: 1-866-764-7228

Email: QualityCoreIndiana@act.org

Administrative Site: <http://qc.vantage.com/qualitycore/>

A: ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Exam Related Questions (A3 only):

Phone: 1-866-688-9555

Email: ADPAlgebraIIEOC@pearson.com

Administrative site: www.pearsonaccess.com

GENERAL ECA INFORMATION, REGISTRATION INFORMATION, AND TESTING WINDOWS:

Q: What are the operational assessments for the 2007-08 school year?

A:

- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Biology I
- English I I

Q: When are the testing windows for the 2007-2008 Operational Administrations?

A: Testing Window I (AI): December 10 – 21, 2007 and continued January 3 – 11, 2007

Operational Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments offered:

- Algebra I (Online only)
- Biology I (Online only)

ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments offered:

- Algebra II (PP only)
- English I I (Online only)

A: Testing Window 2 (A2): February 4 – March 4, 2008

Operational Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments offered:

- Algebra I (Online only)
- Biology I (Online only)

ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments offered:

- Algebra II (PP only)
- English II (Online only)

A: Testing Window 3 (A3): April 28 - May 30, 2008

Online and Paper-and-Pencil* Administration

Core 40 Operational End-of-Course Assessments

- Algebra I (Each School must select one mode – online OR *paper/pencil - of testing for each content areas)
- Algebra II (Paper-and-Pencil only)
- Biology I (Each School must select one mode – online OR *paper/pencil - of testing for each content areas)
- English II (Online only)

ACT QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments offered:

- Algebra II (PP only)
- English II (Online only)

ADP End-of-Course Exam offered:

- Algebra II (PP only)

*Paper-and-Pencil Assessments for these ECAs will NOT be scored locally.

Q: Which schools are required to participate in the Operational Administrations?

A: Schools that have classes that are ending near the testing window should use this opportunity to test.

Q: Who should participate in the Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments?

A: All schools that offer Core 40 courses that fulfill a Core 40 Diploma are expected to participate in the respective Core 40 End-of-Course Assessments.

Algebra I – This assessment is aligned with Indiana's Algebra I Academic Standards. All students finishing Algebra I *at the time of testing (regardless of their current grade in the course)*, including middle school students taking Algebra I, should participate in the Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment.

Biology I – This assessment is aligned with Indiana's Biology I Academic Standards. All students finishing Biology I *at the time of testing (regardless of their current grade in the course)* should participate in the Biology I End-of-Course Assessment.

Algebra II – All students finishing Algebra II *at the time of testing (regardless of their current grade in the course)* should participate in an Algebra II End-of-Course Assessment.

English II – Grade II students enrolled in one of the following English/Language Arts courses *at the time of testing*, **should** participate in an English II End-of-Course Assessment. (A student

is considered to be in Grade 11 if that student meets the definition of Grade 11 that has been adopted by the student's school for determining class standing.) Schools may choose to test grade 11 students in other English courses, however the IDOE Data Collection will only accept the following course codes:

1006 = English 11

1020 = American Literature

1030 = English Literature

1056 = English Language and Composition, Advanced Placement

1058 = English Literature and Composition, Advanced Placement

1130 = Language A1 Higher Level, International Baccalaureate

1132 = Language A1 Standard Level, International Baccalaureate

Q: What is the time allotment for all of the End-of-Course Assessments and Exams?

A: For the 2007-2008 administration, each assessment has two sessions; Session 1 and Session 2. Each session takes 45 minutes to administer to students.

Q: Will there be any statewide Pilot tests for the 2007-2008 Administration?

A: No. US History standards have been updated. A new pilot assessment will be available for the 2008-09 school year that assesses the updated standards.

Q: Are students required to pass the End-of-Course Assessments in 07-08?

A: This is a local decision. If schools choose to incorporate any of the ECAs into local grading, it is recommended that scores on these assessments should not be used for more than one-third of a student's grade. At this time, there are no "stakes" for students at the state level. It is anticipated that ECA scores will be recorded on a student's transcript.

Q: Are students required to pass the Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment?

A: Beginning with this year's Grade 8 students (class of 2012), students must pass the Algebra I and English 10 ECAs as Graduation Qualifying Exams. If a student passes the course and not the ECA, remediation will be handled in a manner similar to the protocol for the current GQE; however specific details have not yet been determined.

Submit additional questions regarding the new Assessment System here:

<http://www.doe.state.in.us/stateboard/comment-assessment.html>

Q: What is the IDOE Data Collection?

A: The IDOE Data Collection is how IDOE collects information regarding WHO will be testing for each ECA.

From March 3 – 21, 2008, corporations are required to upload data to the STN Application Center <http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/stn/> in order to generate barcode labels for paper-and-pencil testing and to pre-register students in the online system for online testing.

All teachers and classes included in the upload will be automatically created on each vendor's site upon import of the file, corporations will not need to create new teachers and/or setup class folders within the online system.

NOTE: This process does not replace the Online Registration process in which CTCs will indicate the **number** of students testing per content area for each administration with each vendor.

Q: How will test security for the required End-of-Course Assessments be handled?

A: Test security for ALL End-of-Course Assessments and Exams will be handled in a manner similar to ISTEP+. Teachers and students will not be given advanced knowledge of the test content prior to administration and testing materials may not be copied or printed. The Corporation Test Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring the security of all test materials and preventing unauthorized circulation of copies of the tests. For the online assessments, test questions or student responses should not be saved or archived locally or disseminated at any time.

Q: How are the items that appear on the End-of-Course Assessments and Exams developed?

A: For the Core 40 ECAs, committees that consist of Indiana K-12 educators and administrators, higher education faculty, and IDOE staff, work along with the testing vendor to review, revise, and approve items. A separate committee reviews the passages and items for sensitivity/bias issues.

For ACT QualityCore ECAs, the testing vendor develops items. Committees, which consist of educators nationwide, help to review and revise items. A separate committee reviews the passages and items for sensitivity/bias issues.

For ADP's Algebra II End of Course Exam, the testing vendor develops items. Committees, which consist of Indiana educators and other states in the consortium, review, revise, and approve items. A separate committee reviews the items for sensitivity/bias issues.

Q: When will Corporations receive student reports or results for the ECAs in A3?

A: The release of student reports will vary by vendor.

Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology I, and English I I with Questar

Online: Beginning on May 12, 2008, all online student reports will be released. Any student who completes a test after this date, will have a report in 24 hours.

PP: Student reports will be available 7 business days after the vendor receives materials from your corporation. No PP reports will be available until May 12, 2008.

Algebra II and English I I with ACT

Online: Student reports will be available a maximum of 10 business days after a student submits a test.

PP: Student reports will be available a maximum of 10 business days after the vendor receives materials from your corporation.

Q: How are special needs and LEP students accommodated on the End-of-Course Assessments and exams?

A: The accommodations for the End-of-Course Assessments will be based upon those observed for ISTEP+. Generally, that means that a student will receive the same testing accommodations as those that occur throughout the student's education program. Refer to the respective Testing Manuals for the full listing of online or paper-and-pencil accommodations: <http://doe.state.in.us/core40eca/welcome.html>.

Q: How can I edit a Corporation Test Coordinator (CTC)?

A: Each corporation must designate ONE contact person to coordinate ALL state-wide assessments. If a CTC contact needs to be updated, log in at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/istep/welcome.html> at the CTC link, and make the necessary edits.

Username = Corporation number, no password required. If you need assistance, please contact Colin Riessen at criessen@doe.in.gov.

Core ECA Results and Reports:

Q: Where can we find our school's results for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Core 40 ECA Operational Administrations?

A: For 2005-2006, you may view individual corporation, school, and classroom results. These results are posted as reports at the following website: <http://incore40eca.questarai.com/admin>
A username and password are required to access these reports.

Q: Where can we find corporation and state averages for ALL corporations and schools?

A: For 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 **ALL** corporation and state averages are posted at the following: <http://doe.state.in.us/core40eca/05stateresults.html>

Q: What is the scale score passing score for the Core 40 ECA Operational Assessments?

A: For Algebra I, 579 and above

A: For English I I, 500 and above

A: For Biology I, 509 and above

A: For Algebra II, 602 and above

Q: What are the scale score passing scores for the ACT QualityCore ECAs or the ADP Algebra II Exam?

A: This has not yet been determined. ACT and ADP will have standards setting sessions in July – August and will release Performance Level Descriptors shortly thereafter.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS FOR ECAs:

Q: How do I obtain new copies of emails that I have lost or did not receive?

A: All emails sent to CTCs or STCs for Core 40 ECAs are also posted at:
<http://doe.state.in.us/core40eca/08communications.html>.

A: All emails sent to CTCs for ACT QualityCore are also posted at:
<http://www.act.org/qualitycore/indiana/>.

Q: How do I locate and change my username and password for each vendor?

A: If you do not have the email that was sent to you with your assigned username and password, you should contact each vendor at the following numbers or email addresses.

Questar Online Technology or Paper-and-Pencil Testing Related Questions:

Phone: 1-877-IC40-ECA (1-877-424-0322)

Email: Core40support@questarai.com

ACT Online Technology or Paper-and-Pencil Testing Related Questions:

Phone: 1-866-764-7228

Email: QualityCoreIndiana@act.org

ADP Algebra II End-of-Course Exam Related Questions (A3 only):

Phone: 1-866-688-9555

Classroom Assessments or Black Line Masters:

Classroom Assessments

The Classroom Assessments are assessments designed to measure what students know and what they need to learn in relation to the standards. For Grades K-8, the Classroom Assessments include two short standards-based quizzes for each standard or cluster of related standard indicators. At the high school level, the assessments are designed to measure student progress at the end of the course.

Please note that the Core 40 Classroom Assessments are voluntary resources for teachers, however they are secure tests and should be accessed by authorized users only. User IDs and Passwords are confidential and should not be shared. Keep in mind that a School Test Coordinator can coordinate User IDs and passwords for teachers. Teachers in a corporation who would like to access these assessments should contact the Corporation or School Test Coordinator for a User ID and Password, not the IDOE.

Each Core 40 Classroom Assessment contains a Student Test Booklet and Teacher Scoring Guide. Please note: These documents are provided as PDF files at the following site <https://dc.doe.state.in.us/DOEOnline/Login.aspx>.

Q: In which subjects are Classroom Assessments available?

A:

English/Language Arts Grade 9
English/Language Arts Grade 12
Geometry
Integrated Math I
Integrated Math II
Pre Calculus
Chemistry
Earth Space Science
Physics
Integrated Chemistry/Physics
Economics
US History
US Government
World Geography
World History and Civilization
Anatomy and Physiology
Geography and History of the World

Q: How may schools use the Classroom Assessments?

A: Schools may use the Classroom Assessments as final exams for the respective courses.

These assessments have scoring guides, and are considered secure test documents. They may only be reproduced for classroom use. Contact your Corporation Test Coordinator for the Web address and password to access these assessments.

<http://doe.state.in.us/core40/welcome.html>.

Q: How do schools obtain access to Classroom Assessments?

A: Corporation Test Coordinators are responsible for creating school accounts for their corporation. User IDs and Passwords are confidential and should not be shared. Keep in mind that Test Coordinators will be able to designate a School Test Coordinator who can coordinate User IDs and passwords for teachers.

Q: What do I do if I have misplaced my login and password?

A: If you do not have a User ID and/or password, or need to reset your password, contact Colin Reissen, at Core40CA@doe.state.in.us. When contacting the IDOE for a password, please provide (your) CTC name and corporation number in the subject line of the email correspondence.

Q: What do schools do with the Black Line Masters (BLMs) that were sent to schools during the 2002-2003 school year and were posted on the Standards Resources site in Spring 2004?

A: These assessments were revised in Fall 2004. The new versions are called the Core 40 Classroom Assessments and have been posted on a password protected site. Contact your Corporation Test Coordinator for the Web address and password to access these assessments.

Q: What are the “passing” scores for the Classroom Assessments?

A: The state did not advise schools of “passing” scores for the BLMs or Classroom Assessments. Schools can make decisions about these resources at a local level.

GENERAL CORE 40 CURRICULUM

Q: Where do I obtain information regarding the Core 40 Diplomas?

A: On February 3, 2005, the Indiana State Board of Education approved new high school graduation requirements that will take effect beginning with students who enter high school in Fall 2006. The new requirements will result in four possible diploma types: Minimum Diploma; Core 40 Diploma; Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma; and Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma. Schools can log on to: http://doe.state.in.us/core40/diploma_requirements.html if they are interested in reading more about the diploma requirements.

All questions regarding the Core 40 Curriculum and the Core 40 Diploma should be forwarded to Patty Shutt via e-mail at pshutt@doe.state.in.us or Matt Fleck at mfleck@doe.state.in.us or by telephone at 1-317-232-9162.